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FEBRUARY 26.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty persons present.

The following were presented for publication :—

“ On an Ammonite from the Carboniferous formation of Texas,”
by Prof. Angelo Heilprin.

“ The Tertiary Geology of Eastern and Southern United States,” by Prof. Angelo Heilprin.

Messrs. Geo. W. Fiss and Francis E. Emory were elected members.

Distoma and Filaria.—Prof. LEIDY directed attention to some parasitic worms presented this evening. Some of these were supposed to be leeches from the mouth of the alligator. Herodotus states that the crocodile of the Nile has the inside of its mouth always beset with leeches. The existence of the leech has been confirmed, and is known as the *Bdella nilotica*. The present specimens, however, do not belong to a leech, but pertain to a species of *Distoma*, apparently not previously described. It may be named and be distinguished by the characters as follows :—

DISTOMA ORICOLA. Body elongated elliptical, moderately wider and thicker posteriorly, and ending in a blunt, angular extremity, convex dorsally and flat ventrally, unarmed, smooth or minutely wrinkled transversely. Mouth subterminal, and enclosed with a reniform lip succeeded by a linear annulus. Acetabulum large, globular, included at the anterior fourth of the body, and opening ventrally by a conspicuous central aperture. Generative orifice ventral, at the posterior fourth of the body. Length, 15 to 20 mm.; breadth, 3 mm. Eight specimens obtained from the mouth of the alligator, *A. mississippiensis*, in Florida, by Mr. Stuart Wood.

Accompanying the specimens is a fragment of the tongue marked with circular scars, apparently due to the worms. The alcoholic specimens in their present condition are incurved, with the lateral margins inverted, and the included acetabulum produces a conspicuous dorsal eminence.

Of several *Filaria* exhibited, two, a female and a male, pertain to the species *Filaria horrida*, Diesing. The former is 28 inches long, the latter 11 inches. They were obtained by Dr. Henry C. Chapman, from the thorax of the American ostrich, *Rhea americana*. The other specimens were obtained by Mr. P. L. Jouy, from the abdomen of *Strix brachyotus*. They consist of four females from 12 to 14 inches long and a half a line thick, and two males $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and one-fourth of a line thick.